



# CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

## COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

**AGENDA DATE:** March 25, 2008

**TO:** Mayor and Councilmembers

**FROM:** Administration, Parks and Recreation Department

**SUBJECT:** Landscaping Grant Of \$17,000 From Santa Barbara Beautiful For The Plaza Vera Cruz Improvement Project

### RECOMMENDATION:

That Council accept a \$17,000 contribution from Santa Barbara Beautiful for a portion of the planting for the Plaza Vera Cruz improvement project; and increase estimated revenues and appropriations in the Parks and Recreation Capital Improvement Budget.

### DISCUSSION:

In March 2008, Santa Barbara Beautiful, a local non-profit organization, awarded the Parks and Recreation Department a \$17,000 grant for the planting portion of the Plaza Vera Cruz improvement project. The grant amount includes installation of a bronze plaque with historic information regarding Plaza Vera Cruz and recognition of Santa Barbara Beautiful for their support of the project.

Santa Barbara Beautiful has a long history of supporting park beautification projects and tree plantings throughout the City. Their contribution will provide aesthetic improvements for Plaza Vera Cruz.

Construction is expected to get underway in April 2008 and be completed within 3 months.

### BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

The successful bidder for the project, V. Lopez & Sons, submitted a bid of \$392,556, with landscaping itemized at \$64,103. The \$17,000 grant from Santa Barbara Beautiful constitutes approximately 25 percent of the landscaping cost.

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REVIEWED BY: \_\_\_\_\_ Finance \_\_\_\_\_ Attorney \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Additional Department(s) That Need to Review CAR

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Agenda Item No. _____
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**SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:**

The landscaping for the Plaza Vera Cruz improvement project is designed in a sustainable manner, which includes drought tolerant plants resistant to insects and disease. Another aspect of the project, though not paid for with the Santa Barbara Beautiful grant, is the installation of concrete mow strips which provide an effective barrier from invasive turf, reducing maintenance requirements, and eliminating the need to use herbicides. The project features an irrigation controller system that will be integrated into the existing City-wide central control system, a valuable tool for assuring responsible management of irrigation.

**PREPARED BY:** Billy Goodnick, Landscape Architect

**SUBMITTED BY:** Nancy L. Rapp, Parks and Recreation Director

**APPROVED BY:** City Administrator's Office